

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (New) A method of fitting a tire on a rim, the tire possessing beads and a marking indicating the position of a maximum of the harmonic H1 of a variation in radial load of the tire, the method comprising inflating the tire while an area of at least one of the beads, coinciding with the position of the marking, is held from passing over a respective rim hump at least during an initial phase of the inflation, and while the rest of said at least one bead is allowed to pass over the hump.

16. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the at least one bead comprises both beads.

17. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the holding of the at least one bead area is performed by a force which decreases in intensity during the inflation.

18. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the rim comprises part of a wheel which has a marking coinciding with the maximum of the harmonic H1 of the average out-of-round of the wheel, the respective markings of the wheel and the rim being substantially diametrically opposed during the fitting.

19. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the rim comprises part of a wheel which has a marking coinciding with the maximum of the harmonic H1 of the wheel, the respective markings of the wheel and the rim lying substantially on a common radius.

20. (New) Apparatus for fitting a tire on a rim, the tire possessing beads and a marking indicating the position of a maximum of the harmonic H1 of a variation in radial load of the tire, the apparatus including a support on which the tire is supported during inflation, and a tool configured for holding only a portion of at least one bead, coinciding with the position of the marking, from passing over a respective rim hump while allowing the rest of said at least one bead to pass over the hump during the inflation.

21. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20 wherein the tool comprises a clamp or zipper.

22. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20 wherein the tool comprises at least one mechanical pressure means.

23. (New) The apparatus according to claim 20 wherein the tool is configured for holding respective areas of both beads.